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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6632

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 1735

E.O.: 11652: GDS TAGS: CSAC, SA

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR VISA

REF: STATE 65580

- 1. I ASKED OMAR SAQQAF, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TODAY IF VISA HAD YET BEEN ISSUED FOR JOSEPH KRAFT. HE SAID IT HAD NOT BEEN. HE SAID SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON HAD SENT THE KING A LONG ACCOUNT OF KRAFT'S PRO-ZIONIST AND ANTI-NIXON WRITINGS. KING HAD REPLIED UNDER THESE CONDITIONS HE WOULD NOT ALLOW KRAFT TO COME IN.
- 2. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT KRAFT CERTAINLY HAD A REPUTATION IN THE ARAB WORLD OF BEING PRO-ZIONIST, BUT HE HAD NOT VISITED MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA. WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER FOR HIM TO COME HERE AND TALK WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS RATHER THAN TO SIT ON THE OUTSIDE AND FRET?
- 3. THE MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT KRAFT MIGHT COME IN WITH THE SECRETARY DURING HIS NEXT VISIT AND THEN STAY FOR HIS INTERVIEWS. I SAID THIS COULD CAUSE COMPLICATIONS WITH EXIT VISAS (HE THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T) AND ASKED IF HE WOULD NOT TAKE THE MATTER UP AGAIN WITH THE KING. HE SAID HE WOULD. AKINS

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Subject: REQUEST FOR VISA TAGS: CVIS, SA, (KRAFT, JOSEPH)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005